treatment, disposal, export, import and recycling of hazardous wastes listed in the Schedules annexed to these rules.

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has provided a scheme for registration of recyclers and re-processors for hazardous waste recycling and reprocessing units in order to ensure that such wastes are recycled in an environmentally sound manner. The recycling and reprocessing of hazardous wastes is allowed to be carried out only by the units registered as recyclers with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and having environmentally sound management facilities for recycling such wastes. The list of registered recyclers is available with the CPCB's website *www.cpcb.nic.in.*

Building of a hotel near the base camp of Mount Everest

2504. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that China has built a hotel and other facilities near the base camp of Mount Everest;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these constructions are having an adverse effect on the Himalayas;

(c) whether his Ministry has started any consultation/discussion with the Chinese counterpart on protecting the Himalayas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Threat to existence of tigers

†2505. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the threat to the existence of tigers is not averting despite all efforts by Government in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the figures of the Wildlife Institute, mere 1300 to 1500 tigers exist presently in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor together with the concrete steps which are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The All India estimation of tigers and other wild animals, including habitat status evaluation, is ongoing as per the revised, enhanced methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force from November, 2005. The tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Reasons for tiger decline outside tiger reserves and protected areas, and the steps taken by the Government for tiger conservation are at Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

The reasons for decline in tiger population outside tiger reserves/protected areas

(i) Degradation of forest status outside Protected Areas/Tiger Reserves owing to :

(a) human pressure

(b) livestock pressure

(c) ecologically unsustainable land uses

(ii) Loss of forest quality in terms of prey biomass.

(iii) Tiger deaths due to poaching.

(iv) Tiger deaths due to man-animal conflict.

(v) Fragmentation leading to loss of gene flow from source populations.

(vi) Loss of reproduction owing to disturbance on account of heavily used infrastructure like highways, etc.

(vii) Lack of adequate protection in outside areas.

(viii) Insurgency/law and order problems in certain areas.

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government for conservation of wild tigers

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of anti-poaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of anti-poaching squads involving ex-army personnel, home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

3. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve

specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

4. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

5. In principle approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

Financial steps

6. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

7. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

8. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

9. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate, stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Partnership for afforestations scheme

2506. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the details of Multi Stakeholder Partnership for afforestation Scheme;

(b) the number of pulp and paper manufacturers who have availed such scheme; and

(c) the details of acreage offered under such scheme, State-wise?